

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 02630 082010Z
ACTION MMO-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 PER-01 A-01 SS-15 SP-02
ABF-01 EB-08 CA-01 /042 W
-----018519 082013Z /65
R 081900Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1233

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 2630

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AODE, TD
SUBJECT: EVALUATION OF PERSONNEL LEVELS

REF: STATE 201122

1. FOLLOWING IS MY EVALUATION OF MISSION ACTIVITIES IN
ASCENDING ORDER OF PRIORITIES\$

A. OTHER AGENCIES

1) LOW

OPERATION OF OMEGA STATION. WE HAVE INFORMED GOTT THAT
WE WISH TO EXTEND OMEGA STATION AGREEMENT UICITL 1980.
GOTT HAS MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION, BUT HAS THUS FAR
NOT REPLIED. STATION IS MANNED BY SIX U.S. CIVILIAN
CONTRACT EMPLOYEES. FROM STRICT VIEWPOINT OF U.S.
INTERESTS IN TRINIDAD, THIS OPERATION MAKES NO POSITIVE
CONTRIBUTION; RATHER, IT REPRESENTS A MILD POLITICAL
LIABILITY FOR US.

2) MEDIUM

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OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE (ONE AMERICAN, TWO
LOCAL POSITIONS). THIS OPERATION IS USEFUL, BUT IN
MY JUDGEMENT EXPENDABLE IF DEEP CUTS IN OVERSEAS STAFF-
ING BECOME NECESSARY. IF OFFICE WERE ABOLISHED, I
WOULD BE INCLINED TO RECOMMEND TRANSFER OF AT LEAST
ONE USDA LOCAL INTO EMBASSY ECON/COMMERICAL SECTION.
THIS WOULD SERVE DOUBLE PURPOSES OF STRENGTHENING OUR

E/C CAPABILITIES, AT SAME TIME CONTINUING COVERAGE OF
USDA INTERESTS.

I WOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT OFFICE ALSO HAS REGIONAL
RESPONSIBILITIES AND I AM OBVIOUSLY NOT IN POSITION TO
EVALUATE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THIS OPERATION TO
OTHER U.S. MISSIONS WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION.

3) HIGH

USIS (TWO U.S., TEN LOCAL POSITIONS). I HAVE BEEN
VERY IMPRESSED, IN MY SHORT TENURE HERE, WITH THE NEED
FOR A FULL RANGE OF ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA OF PUBLIC
DIPLOMACY AND I WOULD RECOMMEND AGAINST ANY REDUCTION
IN USIS PERSONNEL STAFFING.

B. STATE

COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS WERE SUBMITTED EARLIER THIS
YEAR (PORT OF SPAIN 0906, AND 0973). I GENERALLY CONCUR
WITH JUDGEMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THOSE
MESSAGES WITH THE FOLLOWING RESERVATIONS:

1) I DO NOT AGREE WITH MY PREDECESSOR'S OPPOSITION
TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL B&F POSITION. I
UNDERSTAND THIS OPPOSITION WAS BASED PARTLY ON FACT
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THAT POST HAD UNUSUALLY COMPETENT LOCAL EMPLOYEE PER-
FORMING B&F DUTIES. HOWEVER, EMPLOYEE IN QUESTION
DIED IN JULY, AND WE NOW HAVE PRESSING NEED FOR THE
SKILLS THAT THIS NEW POSITION PROVIDES.

2) I ALSO BELIEVE THAT POST MAY HAVE BEEN UNDULY
OPTIMISTIC IN PROJECTING REDUCTION OF TWO POSITIONS
IN CONSULAR SECTION BY FY 1979, BUT I WILL DEFER JUDGEMENT
ON THIS UNTIL IMPROVEMENTS IN PHYSICAL PLANT, PLUS
OTHER TECHNICAL INNOVATIONS SHORTLY TO GO ON STREAM
HERE HAVE HAD THOROUGH TESTING. WOULD POINT OUT,
HOWEVER, THAT OUR PRIMARY CONSULAR CONCERN IS SCREEN-
ING NON-IMMIGRANTS, AND PRESIDENT'S EMPHASIS ON THIS
ACTIVITY IN HIS UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN PROPOSAL COULD
RESULT IN GREATER WORKLOAD, RATHER THAN LESSER AS PRE-
DICTED EARLIER THIS YEAR BY POST.

2. THE FOREGOING HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE PAO.
HOWEVER, AGATT IS ABSENT FROM POST ON LEAVE AND, THERE-
FORE, UNAVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION.
FOX

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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